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DE RUEHEG #0171 0240501
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE 0121
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3290
INFO RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 1522
RUEHKU/AMEMBASSY KUWAIT 0273

UNCLAS CAIRO 000171

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [PHUM](#) [EG](#) [IZ](#)
SUBJECT: IRAQ: EGYPTIAN EMBASSY EMPLOYEE KIDNAPPED

Sensitive but unclassified. Please handle accordingly.

(SBU) Wire services reported on January 23 that an Egyptian Embassy employee in Baghdad was kidnapped. MFA Spokesman and Iraq Specialist Alaa Hadidi confirmed to poloff the veracity of the reports, and said the person was an Egyptian citizen employed by the embassy who was kidnapped mid-day on January 22 at a bank close to the Egyptian mission building. The Egyptian's name is Nabil Mohamed Abu Al Ma,ati. Hadidi said that Ma'ati left the Egyptian Embassy with a driver, went to a bank close to the Embassy, and never came outside. The Embassy later received a phone call from Ma,ati,s cell phone shortly after his disappearance, demanding ransom for Ma'ati's safe return. Hadidi had no other details to provide on the kidnapping, but offered the name of a contact at the Egyptian Embassy in Bagdad: Mohsen Abdel Aziz Mohamed (no phone number). (Note: Egypt has maintained only a skeleton staff at its property in Baghdad, following the June 2005 kidnapping and murder of its Charge d'Affairs Ihab El Sherif. End note.)
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